

REMARKS

By this Amendment, claims 2-8 and 10-11 are pending. The subject matter of claim 9, now cancelled, has been inserted into claim 5. In addition, changes have been made to independent claim 4. Claim 4 now states that the V-shape has two legs joined to one another by a rounded portion, as best seen in Figure 4. This is in contrast to the prior art applied by the Examiner, Koski, wherein the second leg of the V-shape is struck from and bent from the first leg.

In rejecting claim 9, the Examiner stated that the limitation that the tooth is struck from the second portion has been given only limited patentable weight. However, any method of forming limitation must be considered to the extent it affects structure. The structure produced by striking the tooth from the second portion, and therefore forming an aperture in the second portion, is in contrast to the tooth disclosed by Koski which is bent from a corner of the second portion. This method limitation clearly denotes structure which is not present in the prior art. Moreover, in claim 11, it is stated that the first and second portion have the same height at the bend between them. The height of the second portion (the left side of element 26 as seen in Figure 6 of Koski) is greater than the height of the second portion, lock tab 41, at the bend. Viewing Figure 6 of Koski, the height of the left side of the tab where it joins tab 41 cannot be said to be the same as the height of the lock tab 41, as it is much greater.

Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested. In the event that the Examiner does not enter the Amendment, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner address the arguments presented herein, particularly those regarding the limitations of claim 9, now inserted into claim 5, and claim 11.

The claims are allowable and favorable action is eagerly and earnestly solicited. If any issues remain, the Examiner may contact the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Christopher J. McDonald', is written over a horizontal line.

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